

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RON ALLERD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ron Allerd, a Colorado businessman who transformed Telluride, Colorado into one of the nation's most treasured, world-class ski resorts. Because of his vision and determination, Mr. Allerd will officially be inducted into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame on November 2, 2011.

Mr. Allerd first envisioned what the town of Telluride could become after skiing with Telluride native, Johnnie Stevens. In 1978, Mr. Allerd and his business partner, Jim Wells, purchased the Telluride Ski Company, a small company that operated only a few lifts and one day resort.

Their vision slowly became a reality in the community, but on more than one occasion its existence was threatened. After tireless effort and determination, Mr. Allerd worked with various stakeholders and the community to bring amenities to the area, such as an airport, a golf course and a gondola transportation system.

Today, Telluride is an all-season resort that offers unique character to a once dying mining town. Networks of lifts now cover Telluride and its adjoining town, Mountain Village, bringing tourists from around the world to visit this vibrant and active Colorado community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Ron Allerd. His legacy and vision is one that will affect Coloradans and Americans for many years to come.

MR. BRIAN GRYBOSKI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brian Gryboski for the recognition of his athletic ability as he is accepted into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gryboski began his sports career as a pitcher and shortstop in the Plains Little League and as a running back and linebacker with the Plains Yankee football team. In 1989, his final year in the Plains Little League, he threw a no-hitter against Pittston, and he and his team would go on to win the District 16 Little League championship.

While attending Bishop Hoban High School, Mr. Gryboski was a two-year starter for the Argents basketball team when they won two District 2 championships. In 1994, the team reached the state quarterfinals. Also in 1994, Mr. Gryboski was named the McGrane Tournament Most Valuable Player. In 1995, he was a Wyoming Valley Conference All-Star,

and he was the leading scorer in the conference.

While at Wilkes University, Mr. Gryboski played in a record-setting 116 games for the Colonels through his four years. During his stretch at Wilkes, the team earned an impressive 99 wins with just 17 losses. He was a three-year starter, and he was team captain as a senior. Mr. Gryboski's teams accumulated four Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom League Championships, three MAC conference titles, and trips to the NCAA Division III "Elite Eight" in 1996, "Final Four" in 1998, and "Sweet 16" in 1999.

Individually, Mr. Gryboski was selected to the All-Eastern College Athletic Conference Third Team in 1997–1998. He left a legacy at Wilkes University, where he is ranked in the Top 20 in all-time scoring with 1,120 points, and he is in the Top 10 in rebounding, free throws attempted, and free throws made.

Mr. Speaker, as a fantastic baseball and basketball player, Mr. Brian Gryboski, left his mark on numerous sports teams, and he will be honored by being inducted into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame.

VETERANS' BENEFITS TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2349, the Veterans' Benefits Training Improvement Act. I particularly appreciate that the language from my bill, H.R. 1826, was incorporated into H.R. 2349 in Committee. The language that I introduced would simply reinstate the criminal penalties that were previously in place on any individual charging veterans illegal fees for claims before the VA.

Though it is already a violation of the law to charge a veteran in conjunction with filing a benefits claim before the VA, no federal punishment exists, leaving the door open for fly-by-night companies and con artists to take advantage of veterans, unlawfully charging them hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

The language from my bill would make this offense punishable by up to one year in prison and/or fines. Crooked practices must be stopped, and this enforcement mechanism is a critical first step.

Taking advantage of our most vulnerable veterans is a shameful act. I have seen local news reports, and I hear frequently from veterans' liaisons in my district that this problem is rampant, so much so that one of the counties in my district, Hillsborough County, is moving forward to implement a county ordinance that borrows the concept of implementing such an enforcement mechanism from my legislation.

All veterans, regardless of where they reside, should not be forced to bear the financial

burdens of an unenforceable law. They so diligently protected us during our nation's time of need, and now is our opportunity to protect them in their time of need. I am both honored and humbled to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

I would like to thank Chairman MILLER for his strong leadership on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and all of my colleagues on the Committee for their cooperation in pushing this language.

RECOGNIZING PROF. KRZYSZTOF KANIASTY FOR RECEIVING THE STRESS AND ANXIETY RE- SEARCH SOCIETY (STAR) LIFE- TIME CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding scholar for being honored by his peers with an internationally coveted award for excellence in the field of social psychology. Krzysztof Kaniasty, a psychology professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, received the Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR) Lifetime Career Achievement Award during the 32nd annual STAR Conference held recently in Munster Germany. Each year, STAR presents this award to one of its members who has contributed an original and impactful body of work to one or more of the psychology sub-fields of stress, coping, emotions and health.

Dr. Kaniasty received a Master of Arts in Clinical psychology from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poland in 1981 and a Ph.D. in Social/Community Psychology from the University of Louisville in 1991. Since completing his Doctoral work, he has had over 50 articles published in respected professional journals and has been invited to speak about his work at over 150 different international conferences and meetings. In addition to receiving STAR's lifetime achievement honor, he has been given awards for his work by both the Polish government and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kaniasty rose to prominence in his field by producing research that provides valuable insight into the psychological impact of natural disasters and criminal victimization. His ability to write and speak prolifically on the complex social dynamics and psychological processes that characterize populations that have experienced a traumatic event is a testament to his skillfulness as a scholar.

It pleases me greatly that Dr. Kaniasty's scholastic efforts have been officially recognized by a professional society as reputable as STAR. I expect that his research from this point forward will be as edifying as it has been over the first 30 years of his distinguished career.

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